

# AAPD Caries-Risk Assessment Tool (CAT)\*

Caries-risk Indicators	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Clinical conditions	■ No carious teeth in past 24 mos.	■ Carious teeth in past 24 mos.	■ Carious teeth in past 12 mos.
	■ No enamel demineralization	■ 1 area of enamel demineralization	■ More than 1 area enamel demineralization (enamel caries “white-spot lesion”)
	■ No visible plaque; no gingivitis	■ Gingivitis	■ Visible plaque on anterior (front) teeth
			■ Radiographic enamel caries
			■ High titers of mutans Streptococci
			■ Wearing dental or orthodontic appliances
			■ Enamel hypoplasia
Environmental characteristics	■ Optimal systemic and topical fluoride exposure	■ Suboptimal systemic fluoride exposure with optimal topical exposure	■ Suboptimal topical fluoride exposure
	■ Consumption of simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries initiation primarily at meal times.	■ Occasional (i.e., 1-2) between-meal exposures to simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries	■ Frequent (i.e., 3 or more) between meal exposures to simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries.
	■ High caregiver socioeconomic status	■ Midlevel caregiver socioeconomic status (i.e. eligible for school lunch program or SCHIP)	■ Low-level caregiver socioeconomic status (i.e., eligible for Medicaid)
	■ Regular use of dental care in an established dental home	■ Irregular use of dental services	■ No usual source of dental care
General health conditions			■ Active caries present in the mother
			■ Children with special health care needs
			■ Conditions impairing saliva composition / flow

## Risk Category

■ **High Risk:** The presence of a single risk indicator in any area of the “high-risk” category is sufficient to classify a child as being at “high risk”.

■ **Moderate Risk:** The presence of at least 1 “moderate risk” indicator and no “high risk” indicators present results in a “moderate risk” classification.

■ **Low Risk:** The child does not have “moderate risk” or “high risk” indicators.